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B R I E F

DIRECTIONS

For our more

Devout Behaviour

In Time of

Divine Service.

With a Short *Rationale* on the
Common-Prayer



Dublin, Re-printed at the Back of
Dick's Coffee-House in *Skinner-*
Row; and are to be Sold by *Ro-*
bert Thornton, Bookseller in *Essex-*
Street. 1700.

BRIEF
REFLECTIONS

On the
Duties of Behaviour

In times of

Divine Service.

With a Short History of the

Church of England.

Printed, Reprinted at the Black of
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and are to be sold by the
for Thomas Baskin in the
West. 1700.

TO THE READER.

Experience tells us, that some persons who come into the Religious Assemblies of the Church to worship God, for want of consideration, do absurd things, performing their sacrifice to God in such a rude manner, as God cannot, and indeed will not accept of them. Some sitting so supinely at their Prayers, as if, with the Heathens, they worshipped Stocks and Stones, rather than a living and true God. Others come to Church as unto a Play, to shew their Bravery, to be taken notice of, and admired by the Spectators: Others strive for Places and Superiority, and the chief Seats in the Synagogues, and there vent their Pride, Anger, and Malice, where they ought to express the greatest Humility & Charity.

To the Reader.
Others compose themselves to Sleep, as if
the God they came to worship; like Baal,
were asleep also; and they came to ho-
nour him with that Gesture. All these
express very little sense of the tremendous
Majesty they come to worship.

Now to correct these Errors, and that
persons should come as they ought to come,
both Reverently and Understandingly, and
do there what is fit to be done, I do free-
ly offer to thy Meditation these following
Directions; hoping thou wilt as freely ac-
cept, as I kindly offer them unto thee. And
I do pray the God of Heaven to direct
thee, and give thee a right understanding
in all things. Farewel.

Others come to Church
as unto a Play, to hear their Livings
be taken notice of, and admired by the
Spectators: Others strive for Places and
Singularities, and the chief Seat in the
Synagogue, and there vent their Fables
and Malice, where they ought to
express the greatest Humility & Charity.

Brief.

*Brief Directions for our more devout
Behaviour in the Time of Divine
Service.*

1. **C**ome not to the Publick Prayers, as Spectators to a Theatre, to hear much, learn little, and do nothing; but come out of a sincere Obedience to God's Commands; and with a full trust in his Promise, that he will be in the midst of those who are gathered together in his Name, to here their Prayers, and to grant their Request.

2. Let us take care that we may be there from the Beginning to the End, that our Hearts and Tongues may bear a part throughout; which is a good means to make us Partakers, both of the *Absolution* at the Beginning of the Prayers, and of the *Blessing* at the End. Whereas if we come after they are begun, we do not only lose the Benefit of those Prayers which are over, but in some measure of the whole; they being so linked together, in such an excellent Manner and Method

Method, that they influence and assist each other : So that nothing can be omitted, either by Minister, or People, but the whole will suffer by it.

3. Think it not lost time to frequent daily the Publick Prayers of the Church ; for in so doing we both acknowledge our Gratitude to our Creator for his Beneficence towards us, and also shew that we are not ashamed of the Religion we profess.

4. Spend some time in your private Addresses to God, before you venture to make your approach to God in Publick. Think not that the falling down on your Knees at your entrance into the Church, and mumbling a few Prayers in a Pew, is a sufficient preparation for the Majesty of the Great God we come to adore and worship. We read that the Elders of *Israel* trembled before *Samuel* at his coming ; and shall not we much more tremble when we go to meet our great *Jehovah* in his Ordinances ? Consider the Majesty of the Great God we are going to wait upon, as also the vileness of our selves by reason of our Sins. O what Care, Fear and Reverence is required in our Approaches to a God before whom the Angels veil and cover their Faces, as not being able to behold

hold the brightness of his Glory ! And if this lowly Reverence is done by Angels, who are in such nearness to God ; what Posture can be low enough for us miserable Men, who in comparison of those heavenly spirits, are viler than the Ground we tread on ?

5. When you come to the Church-Door, Consider that you are now upon entrance into the Presence-Chamber of the Great King of the World, whose Throne of Glory is in heaven above, but his Throne of Grace is in his Temple hear below. Say then to your self, *Surely the Lord is in this Place. How dreadful is this Place ? this is none other but the House of God ; this is the Gate of Heaven. Blessed are they that dwell in thy House, they will be always praising thee.* Most happy were I, could I both esteem it, and make it my greatest and constant Labour of Love to praise the Lord in his House.

6. Having entred into the Church, with due Reverence, you may, at your first kneeling down, present your selves to Almighty God in one of these or the like Ejaculations.

Let the Words of my Mouth, and the Meditations of my Heart, be now and ever acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength
and

and our Redeemer. Or,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come. Fit us all
for thy Service. Or,

O most merciful God, give us Grace to make the best use of our Time in thy House, graciously accept us all, who come hither to present our selves, our Souls, our Bodies unto thee, for Jesus Christ his sake, who was pleased to Present himself in the Temple for us, in great Humility and loving Kindness.

7. All the while you are in God's House carry your selves as in his special Presence, and futable to the Work you are about ; standing while you praise him, and kneeling while you pray unto him, as the Church does direct.

8. Take special care all along to keep your Mind intent on the Matter in hand. When you confess your Sins, do it with a sincere and hearty Repentance for the Errors of your life past. When you repeat the Hymns and Praises of God, raise up your Souls as high as you can, to join with those above in praising God above. To this End make a Covenant with your Eyes, not to gaze about to see who come into the Church, what Cloaths they wear. Take heed of a wandering and departing Heart

Heart : Fix your Eyes on the Minister, your Ears on the Word, your Heart on God. If a Man talk with his Neighbour, his Understanding is ordinarily fixed upon the Subject he is discoursing of. And surely no Man can think that God deserves less Attention than Man. If with my lips I pray, and my Mind be at *London* ; if my Mouth sing, and my Thoughts are in my Shop; if I hear God's Word read, and my Thoughts are upon my Trade, or my wordly Business, 'tis a brutish, not a reasonable Service. We are commanded to Pray with the Spirit and Understanding ; that is, my Understanding and Thoughts must keep pace with my Prayer, and fix upon the tremendous Majesty of God whom I worship and adore. Indeed, very few are so happy as thus to fix their Thoughts upon a Spiritual Object, without the least variation or wandring of Thoughts : Yet he that intends to offer to God a reasonable Service, must hold his Understanding and Affections close to it ; and when they decline from the Point, reduce and bring them back again to their Center, from whence they have swerved. And although the Service be interrupted, if it be not wilful, God will pardon our Infirmities;

ties, who are Men, and not Angels, and so Pardon and accept us for the sake of our Saviour Jesus.

Chap. i. *Of the Exhortation.*

WHile the *Exhortation* is reading, stand gravely, and mind seriously the Business you are about. Fill your Hearts with humble and low Thoughts of your self, and reverend and high Thoughts of your Creator. When you come to the *Confession*, fall down on your Knees, that being the Posture commanded by the Church, as best becoming a Penitent: For if when I come to kiss the Hand of an Earthly Prince, I bend my Knee in testimony of my Subjection to him, much more when I make my solemn Addresses to my Heavenly King, by whom all others reign, I should do it with a pure Heart and Humble Voice, and such bodily Reverence as is apt to express and signify the infinite Distance that is between God and his sinful Creature. We read, that when our Saviour pray'd to his Father, he kneeled, who knew no Sin; and is that Posture too low for us who are nothing but Sin? Hath not the great God said, *Every Knee shall bow to him*; and shall any of us think
to

to be dispensed with? therefore when you join with the People in confessing your Sins, fall down on your Knees, and confess not only your own Sins in general, but as far as you are able, reckon up your own in particular, especially those that are greater in themselves, or lately committed. When you come to that Expression, [*We have done those things which we ought not to have done*] say, with a low Voice, *Especially such and such a Sin by me this Week committed.* And at the end of your Confession, when you beg to lead a *Sober, Righteous and Godly Life*, resolve to do it; or otherwise you do but mock God in his House, affront him in his Sanctuary, and tell him a Lie in your Prayers.

Chap. 2. Of Absolution.

NOW after this humble Confession, while we continue on our Knees, in the posture of Penitents, the Priest, to whom God hath given Authority, doth pronounce to the Penitent, Pardon and Absolution: Not that he hath Power in himself to absolve us; no, he is like a Herald at Arms, sent to bring a Pardon from

from a King to rebellious Subjects, having no Power of himself to acquit the Malefactors. When therefore the *Absolution* is reading, receive it with all Gladness and Humility of Mind; begging, that the Pardon pronounced by the Priest in general; may be applied to your self in particular; bowing the Head, say softly in your Heart, *Lord, let this Pardon pronounced by the Priest, fall upon my Soul, and seal thereunto the forgiveness of my Sins.*

Chap. 3. *Of the Lord's Prayer.*

AND now looking upon our selves as absolved from our Sins, upon our Repentance and Faith in Christ; we take the boldness to put up our Petitions to him: And no better Prayer can we begin our Liturgy with, than our Saviour's own Prayers; the Pattern and Foundation of all our other Prayers; being so short, that the meanest may learn it; so plain, that the most ignorant may understand it; and yet so full, that it comprehends all our Wants, and intimates all our Duty. Now being we hope to have our Prayers accepted of the Father, only for the Son's sakes; Why should we not hope to have them most speedily accepted, when they are offered up in the Son's own Words?

The

The Church enjoins us to repeat this Prayer after the Minister ; our repeating it, stirs up our Attention, quickens our Devotion, and helps us the better to regard the sense of each Petition. And if we do but consider the Stile of it, we may preceive that the Divine Author intended it for a Publick Prayer ; and chiefly for Publick Assemblies, it being a Common-Prayer, and all its Expressions so general ; *Our Father ; Our daily Bread ; Our Trespases :* So that every Man using it, prays for others as well as for himself, and exercises his Charity as well as his Devotion.

As for the *Versicles* and the *Responses*, they are Canonical Scripture, and most taken out of the Book of *Psalms*. By these we acknowledg out Dependence on God, and our inability to preform any Religious Duty well without him. They are used interchangeably by Minister and People, to testify mutual Love, to strengthen Affection, to stir up our Devotion, to kindle and inflame it in one another, and to oblige us to greater Attention. In a word, by these they are taught, that they are as much concern'd in the Prayers of the Church as the Priest, and ought to bear a Part in them. For by these *Versicles*, and saying *Amen*, to every Prayer, they

they not only hear how the Priest prays to God, but also makes every Prayer and Praise their own Act; becoming active in the Service of God, and keeping up a sense of God and Religion, and so may hope for a Blessing accordingly.

Chap. 4. *Of the Doxology and Hallelujah.*

AFTEN these pious Ejaculations lifted up unto God by the Priest and People, for Ability to praise him, and for speedy Succour and Relief against our Enemies; then are we directed by the Church to stand up, that we may also, with united Hearts and Voices, in the highest Note, say, *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.* Thus we give Glory unto God, as become Christians; and we distinguish our selves from *Jews, Turks, Pagans* and *Infidels*, in these most Christians Hymns, and that short Abridgment of our Creed, and Mystery of the Holy Trinity, in whose Name we were Baptized. Certainly 'tis very meet, right and just, to give Glory to God, because 'tis appropriate to God alone, 'tis his peculiar Right which he lays claim unto. *Isa. 42. 8. He is the King of Glory. The Heavens declare the Glory of God, Psa. 19. 18. The Angels chant it forth, Luke 2. 14. The Seraphims*

Seraphims resound it: And do we think Man is less obliged to it than those Celestial Spirits? No Place on Earth more Proper for it than God's House, where every Man should speak of his Honour; and no Posture more sutable than standing, for by it we shew our chearful readiness to give Glory to God, and our pious Resolution to stand fast in the Faith of the Holy Trinity. Some who professed Christianity, and favoured the Heresy of *Arians*, corrupted this Form of giving Glory unto God, and framed another in favour of their Heresy, differing from the Ancient Form, both in Word and Sense; as, *Glory be to the Father, by the Son, and in the Holy Gost*. But at last this Heresy was rooted out, and the old Form was restored: Upon the restauration of which, these words were added by the Church, *As it was in the Beginning, is now, and ever shall be, &c.*

As for those words, *Praise ye the Lord*; they are the same which the Hebrew word *Hallelujah* signify: Which being set at the beginning of the five last *Psalms*, may very properly be used at the beginning of any Portion of *Psalms*, to be read; the whole *Psalter*, or Book of *Psalms*, being nothing but Prayers and Praises.

It.

It is placed next the *Doxology*, or, *Glory be to the Father*, &c. as an Answer or Return thereunto. For whereas in that Hymn, we worship the Sacred Trinity; in this, we worship the Unity.

Or, it may be, as a triumphant Hymn, upon the joyful News of our Absolution, and overthrow of our Spiritual Enemies. For the Offices of the Church, being thus far Penitential, they do now by degrees begin to be Eucharistical, and advance in the praises of God, as appears by the following Hymn.

Chap. 5. *Venite*, &c. or *O come let us*, &c.

IT follows next, that we should in the most chearful Posture, which is standing, exhibit our Lauds and Praises as in the 95th Psalm, *O come let us*, &c. This is an invitatory Psalm: for herein we do mutually invite and call upon one another, being come before his presence, to sing to the Lord, and set forth his praise; to hear his Voice, in his Holy Word, with Joy and Cheerfulness. This Psalm, and indeed all others, as also the Hymns, ought to be answered Verse by Verse with the Minister: And in Cathedrals, one side of the Quire to say or sing one Verse, and the other side the other; to the intent, that

that by an holy Emulation, we may contend who shall serve God most affectionately; as also, that by this relieving one another, we may not grow weary of this Service.

Chap. 6. Of the Psalms.

THE *Psalms* were anciently divided into several Portions call'd *Nocturns*: By which Division the whole *Psalter*, or Book of *Psalms*, was read every Week: but our Church allow a Month's space for the reading of them in Publick, and that by way of Responding, as was before observed. Now the Reason why the *Psalms* are so frequently read over, is, because they contain the Flower and Quintessence of all things Spiritual and Divine, as being digested into Forms of Prayers, Thanksgivings, Praises, Confessions and Adorations, fit for every spiritual Temper and Necessity. Here the Penitent hath a Form of Confession; he that hath received a Benefit, a Thanksgiving; he that is in any kind of Need, Ghostly or Bodily, hath a Prayer; all have Lauds, and all may adore the several Attributes of God, as Power, Wisdom, Love and Goodness, Patience and Long-suffering, Justice and Mercy, &c.

David's Psalms are Forms, which no Person may be either afraid or ashamed

to use, being composed by the Inspiration of the Divine Spirit. But he that would make good use of them, must endeavour to form his Spirit according to the Affection of the *Psalmist*. If the Affection be of Love, that runs through the *Psalms*, it must be read with the same Affection; if of Fear, the Spirit of Fear should be imprinted on the Soul; if of Desire, it should be carried on with the same Transportation; if of Gratitude unto God, the Soul should be lifted up in Praises, and come with Affections that way inflamed.

Indeed some *Psalms* seem to have no Propriety with the Spirit of Christianity, as being spent in calling for Vengeance upon Enemies, contrary to the Gospel-Spirit of Meekness, Mildness, and Love of Enemies, and the Example of Jesus, *Luke* 9. 56. who came not to destroy Men's Lives, but to save them. To this is answered, that *David* in those places, did not pray as a Petitioner, that God would bring such and such Judgments upon Sinners; but as a Prophet, and inspired with the Spirit of God, he did predict and denounce the just Judgments of God, that would inevitably fall upon such Persons. Such *Psalms* therefore are rather Predictions and Prophecies, than Prayers; and
may

may instruct us, although not in a Literal, yet in a Spiritual Sence, to express our Revenge and Displeasure against our Sins and Lusts, which are God's and our greatest Enemies : So that in this respect our Indignation, Zeal and Imprecations are very seasonable.

Many things also in the *Psalms* may seem not to suite well with every Man's Condition at all times ; so that the Spirit of the Reciter may meet with Contradiction, more than Advantage and Assistance. As for Example, A Man overwhelm'd with Grief, can't have a vigorous Spirit of Praise ; or a Man in a prosperous Estate, can't have the Spirit of Humiliation. To this is answered, That both Humiliation and Praise are things no way improper, or impertinent to any Soul at any time ; for in all Afflictions there is some Spring of Joy and Consolation on this side Hell ; as also in all Prosperity and Consolation, there is matter and occasion enough of Humiliation for Sin. Moreover it is to be considered, that in Publick Services we must put on Publick Spirits, and mind the Condition of others as well as our selves, praying and praising God for others as well as our selves.

Chap. 7. Of the First Lesson.

After the *Psalms*, the Church gives a kind of Rest to our Devotions, that they tire not. Now we should, with Sobriety and Gravity, expect the Word of God, and say to our selves; *O Lord, open the Eyes of my Understanding, that I may behold the wondrous Things of thy Law!* The reading of one Lesson out of the Old Testament, and another out of the New, is an imitation of the Ancient Church; as the Jews used to read some Lessons and Portions out of *Moses*, and the other out of the *Prophets*, upon their Sabbaths and Festivals; which Portions of Scripture they call'd *Sections* and *Traçtats* of a good Day. When therefore you hear the Minister read the Lessons, compose your self in such a reverend Posture, as if God himself were speaking unto you; and give diligent heed to every Word, that you may understand and apply it to your own Soul. Let us observe the Precepts, to do them; the Threatnings, to avoid them. Hearing a Precept and Command read, commune with your Heart, and say; This is the Command of God, and dare I disobey it?

it? Shall I respect the Command of an Earthly Prince, and neglect the Mandate of my Heavenly Father? *O that my Ways were made so direct, that I might keep thy Statutes.*

When you hear any of these Curses denounced against Sinners, tremble, if thou thy self be guilty of any of those Sins. When thou hearest Promises, say in thy Heart; Are these God's Calls and Invitations, and shall I refuse them? Doth he knock at the Door of my Heart, and shall it not fly open, that the King of Glory may come in?

The *Moral* Books of the Old Testament, teach what we should do, and what we should shun. The *Historical* confirm our Faith in God's Providence, and comfort us in our Afflictions, by shewing us what care God takes of us; and warns us against Sin and Iniquity, which God will not let go unpunished. The *Poetick* Books, shew how we should live, give Instructions of Morality and Prudence. The *Prophetick* Books may teach us to admire the foresight of God, and confirm us in our Faith of the *Messiah*, who is come, and hath exactly fulfilled all those Prophecies; and so fit us for the Second Lesson.

Chap. 8. *The Hymn, Te Deum; or,
We praise thee O God, &c.*

BUT now, lest we should seem to be ingrateful for so great a Mercy as the Scripture is, which God hath not revealed to the Heathens, but hath given unto us, the Church hath interposed an *Hymn* between the *Lessons*; and indeed not without great Reason; for if we bless God for our Meat and Drink, how much more ought we to glorify him for the food of our Souls? Shall we praise him for Temporal, and not for Spiritual Mercy? Shall we bless him for the Meat that perisheth, and not praise him for the Manna that endureth for evermore? This *Hymn* is said to be composed by St. *Ambrose* and St. *Austin*, upon the Conversion and Baptism of St. *Austin*, wherein St. *Ambrose* was so instrumental, and they two used to sing it Anthem-wise. But be the Author as whoever please to think, the Structure, though Humane, is compleat, and the Materials of it are Divine, and it worthily challenges a place in our constant Service for its Antiquity and Consonancy unto Scripture-Verity: As the power and Majesty of God the Father, the Divinity and Humanity

nity of God the Son; his Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, Ascension, and coming in Glory to judge the World. Also the Divinity of the Holy Ghost, is in this Hymn asserted: And indeed nothing is in it, but what is agreeable unto Scripture; therefore it ought to be used by us. We are commanded to stand up at the repeating of it, in regard the erection of the Body, fitly expresses the lifting up of the Heart in Joy; so that in Scripture, Rejoycing is call'd, the lifting up of the Head, *Luke 21. 28.*

Chap. 9. Of the Second Lesson.

THE Church hath ordered the Second Lesson out of the new Testament, to shew unto us the Harmony between the Law and the Gospel: For what is the Law, but the Gospel typified? and what is the Gospel, but the Law fulfilled? Things there prefigured, are here fulfilled and performed. Therefore when we hear the Second Lesson read, let us see God's great Love to us, and what Christ suffered for us; and when we hear any of his Vertues read to us, such as his Patience, Meekness, Humility, and Obedience, Devotion and Charity; let us think our selves

concern'd to imitate him in those blessed Qualities; For God has set him an Example, that we should follow his Steps. Thus every part of Scripture may be of singular use to us, if we hear it with Attention, apply it with Discretion, and practise it with Diligence. Moreover, the Church hath so ordered the reading of the Scriptures, that the *Psalms* are read over every Month; most of the *Old Testament* once in the Year, and the *New* thrice: And the Lessons are so sorted, that they may edify as much as any ordinary Sermon, did not the People value their one foolish Humour, above the Church's Prudence. I do therefore (saith a Learned Writer upon this Subject) admire, and much pity those Men, who seem mighty attentive, and place much Religion in hearing of a Sermon, and yet are perfectly careless, and seem almost to despise the reading of the Scripture; seeing whatsoever Authority and Excellency any Sermon hath, it derives from the Scripture; and must be condemn'd by it, if not consonant to it. And now having heard of God's great Love in the Gospel, that we may not seem ingrateful for so great a Mercy, the Church hath provided us with another *Hymn* to praise him.

Chap.

Chap. 10. *The Benediēt ; or Blessed, &c.*

WHEN the Gospel was first published to the World, the Angels sung Praise, and all holy Men to whom it was revealed, entertained these good Tidings with great Joy. Now what *Hymns* can be fitter to praise God with for our Salvation, than those which were the first Gratu-lations wherewith our Saviour was entertained, coming into the World? It was the Privilege and Happiness of the Jewish Nation, that *Moses* and the *Prophets* were read in the Synagogue every Sabbath-Day; but, behold, a greater than *Moses* is here, even Christ himself, whom *Moses* and all the *Prophets* foretold should come; they saw afar off what is present to us. Now hearing of this Love of God towards us in Christ Jesus, we can do no less than rise up and praise him, it being such a piece of Service as we hope shall be our Business and Employment to all Eternity.

Chap. 11. *Of the Apostles Creed.*

NEXT in order follows the Apostles Creed, being a Summary of our Christian Faith, to be rehearsed jointly, both by Minister and People, all standing. Our standing up with the rest of the Congregation

gregation, is to signify and declare, that we will stand to this Faith, and earnestly contend for it, as being that Faith which was once delivered to the Saints, composed in that Form and Method we now have it by the Apostles themselves, and convey'd unto us by an undeniable Tradition of the Church. The place of this our Creed in the Liturgy, is soon after the Lesson of holy Scripture, out of which it was taken. Now since Faith comes by Hearing of the Word, and the Word of the Gospel does not profit, not being mix'd with Faith in them that hear it: We therefore, upon hearing of the Word, do exercise and profess our Faith; It is also placed just before the Prayers, as being the Foundation of our Petitions; for with what Confidence can we call upon him on whom we have not believed?

Chap. 12. Of the Lord's Prayer, with the Versicles and Responses.

HAVING all repeated our Creed together, and thereby given good Proof of our being Members of the Catholick Church, and such as have a right to pray jointly with others, we then prepare ourselves to pray. And since Salutations have
 ever

ever been the Expression and Badg of that mutual Love and Charity, without which we are not fit to pray; therefore we begin our Prayers with an ancient Form of Salutation taken out of the Holy Scripture: The Minister begins and salutes the People, with, *The Lord be with you.* And they lovingly return in like manner; *And with thy Spirit.* Surely, were there are such joint Prayers with such mutual Love, offered up for each other, the Holy Angels will carry such charitable Desires unto God Almighty; and he who is Essential Love and Goodness, will as readily receive them. A Christian Congregation, calling thus upon God with one Heart, and with one Voice, and in a reverend and humble Posture, look as beautiful as *Jerusalem*, or a City that is at Unity with it self.

Then follows, *Let us Pray.*

Which is a kind of Spiritual Watchword, or Signal unto the Battel, to summon us all, with united Forces, to besiege Heaven with our holy Importunities; as also a warning to every one to lay aside all vain Thoughts, and only mind that great Work we have in hand: For although the Minister do speak most of the Words, yet by that Expression, he invites and conjures all, to let their Hearts and Affections

Affections go along in every Petition.

Lord, have Mercy upon us.

Christ, have Mercy upon us.

Lord, have Mercy upon us.

These three *Versicles* are taken out of *David's Psalms*, and thrice made use of in the Liturgy, as a shorter Supplication to the Trinity. We have offended every Person of the Blessed Trinty, and therefore we supplicate and beg Mercy of them all; and also implore the Assistance of the Trinity, to whom we pray.

After the short Litany, called the *Christian's lesser Litany*, follows the *Lord's Prayer*, which consecrates all the rest of our Prayers, and makes way for them. And it is here a second time repeated, that in case we did not put up any petitions with Fervency enough before, we may now make amends, by asking for it with a double earnestness.

After the *Lord's Prayer*, follow divers *Versicles*, taken out of *David's Psalms*. The Minister stands up, to testify the Authority of his Function, in making Intercession by Prayer to God: and he and the People send up several pithy Ejaculations unto Heaven, for Mercy and Salvation, for King and Subjects, for Minister and People, for Grace, and Holiness, being the Sum and Substance of the following *Collects*.

Chap.

Chap. 13. Of the *Collets*, *Litany*, *Prayer*
of St. Chrysoſtom, and the *Bleſſing*.

C*ollets* are ſo called, as being Prayers in ſhort Sums, containing much Matter in few Words; like ſo many choice Flowers gathered and collected out of the Scripture's Garden, and bound up in little Poſies, to be offered and Preſented unto God, by and through Jeſus Chriſt.

The *Fiſt Collect* here mentioned for the Day, is always fitted for the Day, and framed for the moſt part in reference to ſomething remarkable in the Epistle or Goſpel for the Day.

The *Second Collect* is for Peace, becauſe we can't well pray, and offer Prayers acceptable to God, without Peace; for were there is no Peace, there can be no Piety, Godlineſs or Honesty, the Love of God, and the Love of our Neighbour.

The *Third Collect* is for Grace; becauſe if the Grace and Love, and Spirit of God, do not rule in our Hearts here, we can't have Happineſs with God hereafter: for Grace is Glory begun, and Glory is Grace finiſhed.

Upon Wedneſdays, Fridays and Sundays, is the *Litany* appointed to be read
in

in our Churches. The word *Litany* imports no more, but a certain Form of most earnest Supplications; and such indeed is this our *Litany*, wherein Priest and People are to strive together, as mutual helpers of each other, in wrestling with God for a special Blessing upon our selves and others. It contains,

1. An Invocation of the Blessed Trinity.
2. Deprecation from all Spiritual, Temporal, and Eternal Evils.
3. Intercessions for the whole Church, King, Nobility, Clergy, Gentry and Commonalty.

4. For all Graces needful for us and others. All these Prayers are so grave, pious and profitable, that there is not extant a more artificial Composure for the raising our Devotions, and keeping them throughout, than this part of our Liturgy.

Then we conclude with the Prayer of St. *Chrysostom*, and the Apostolical Form of Blessing, in the Name of the Holy Trinity, saying, *The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, &c.*

Chap. 14. *Of the Communion-Service.*

UPON Sundays and Holy-days, we proceed to the *Communion-Service* ;
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so called, and so used, because the Ancient Christians, every Day, and latter Ages, at least upon every Festival, did administer and receive it. We begin this Office, as all other Services, with the Lord's Prayer. And the Church borrows this Custom from the Primitive Christians, who always used it in the Celebration of this Sacrament, as the Fathers testify. Yea, St. *Jerom* affirms, that our Lord Christ himself taught it his Apostles, to the intent it might be used at this Holy Service. Hereupon the same Father, and many others do expound that Petition [*Give us this Day our daily Bread*] of the Bread of Life, the Spiritual and Sacramental Body of Christ, the which in those Days they even daily received: and indeed all the rest of that incomparable Service is futable, and to be apply'd to that Mystery.

Next to the Lord's Prayer, follows the *Collect for Purity*, being a holy Aspiration after Divine Charity, that is, the sincere Love of God, and of our Neighbour: And this a fit Introduction to the *Communion-Service*, as also a proper Preface to the *Commandments*: For the pure Body of Christ, must be received into a Heart purified, by Divine Love. And as the People were to be sanctify'd before the first
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giving of the Law, (*Exod. 19. 14.*) so must we have Hearts purify'd by Divine Love, and Holy Desires of serving God, lest the Commands be an occasion to stir up Concupiscence in us, rather than Charity, the End of the Commandment.

Here follow the *Commandments*, and that very fitly, before the *Administration* of the *Holy Sacrament*; that so all Persons may see their Sins in the Glass of the Law: As also to re-mind them of their Baptismal Vow, and Obligation of keeping God's Commandments, which they come to repeat and renew in the Sacrament of the Altar. Therefore when we hear the Commandments, we must receive them with equal Reverence and Humility; as if God himself spake from Mount *Sinai*. And because we have offended against all and every of them, we must fall down as Criminals ought to do, and diligently consider, as the Priest reads, what Sins we have committed, and what good omitted in relation unto every Commandment, and so be ready to say, at the end of every Commandment, *Lord, have Mercy upon us, and forgive us these great Offences*: And that sorrow for Sin may pass into the Love of God, we must add, *and encline our Hearts to keep this Law.*

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In the use of these Means, by the Grace of God, we may mortify Concupiscence, and enkindle Divine Charity in the Soul, by which we shall be fitly prepared and disposed for the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, which is the Sacrament of Love.

After the Commandments and the Collects, for the King and the Day, follow the *Epistle* and *Gospel*; a Custom the Church borrows from the Jews, who read the History of their Diliverance from *Egypt*, before the Passover; the Primitive Christians did read select Portions of Scripture, out of the New Testament, before the Celebration of the Eucharist. Yea, they did not eat their common Meals without reading some part of Holy Scripture, and this because St. Paul said, *Every Creature was sanctified by the Word of God and Prayer.* These *Epistles* and *Gospels*, are the most choice and practical Parts of the New Testament. The *Epistle* is read first, as being the Word by the Mediation of Servants; and therefore the Church permits to sit thereat. The *Gospel*, which follows, being the Word of our Master himself, we are commanded to stand up; & after it is read, we say an *Hallelujah*, or, *We praise thee, O God, for thy Holy Gospel.*

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After the Gospel, follows the *Creed*, call'd the *Nicene*, or *Constantinopolitanean Creed*. The which, as also that other *Creed* of St. *Athanasius*, do exactly contain the Articles and Mysteries of Faith in the Apostles Creed; differing only in some additional Expressions, declaring the ancient Faith of the Church; in Bar and Opposition to such Heresies as disturbed the Church in the several Ages they were composed. This Creed is appointed to be read before the Sacrament, to shew, that all Communicants should be free from Heresy, and in Unity and Charity with the Catholick Church.

After the *Confession* of our Faith, follows the Exercise of our *Charity*, without which it would be but a dead Faith, *James* 2. 22.

Now this Charity to our Neighbour is expressed three ways.

1. By giving Alms; and to this purpose are the Sentences at the Offertory.

2. By Prayer, which is a Spiritual Alms; and this is perform'd in the Prayer for the whole State of Christ's Church Militant; and herein, for all that are in Trouble, Sorrow, Need, Sicknes, or any other Adversity.

3. By forgiving all Injuries done to ourselves, and making Satisfaction to others for

for the Injuries done unto them; and this we are reminded of in the Exhortation before the Communion.

1. Giving Alms is frequently commanded in the Gospel; as also recommended unto us, by the Example of our Saviour himself, who gave Alms at the Passover, *John* 13. 29. Nay, he supposes, *Matt.* 5. 23. that we will come with our Gift unto the Altar, and not appear before the Lord empty: and therefore he there directs and commands, to bring along inward and cordial Love, with outward Alms and Charity. The Primitive Christians use to have Collections every Lord's Day; many of them gave all they had; many, a considerable part of what they possessed, and that because the Necessity of the Church required such Contributions at that time, having nothing other ways to maintain Minister, Poor, or to procure things necessary for the Worship and Service of God in Religious Assemblies. And though these Things and Persons are otherwise provided for at this Time, yet all *Collective Charity*, is not Superfluous, upon certain Occasions; especially at the *Receiving of the Sacrament*: For when we there feast with God, we can't for shame forget his poor Servants. The Religious Persons amongst

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the Jews, used to dedicate the thirtieth part of their Income to the Poor. And many good Christians, blessed by God with good Estates, have every Week laid apart some part of their Substance for the Relief of the Poor.

The second way of exercising our Love and Charity, is by *Prayer*. We know not the Necessities of all; and if we did, we have not ability to succour and relive them: In this case we must love all, pray to God who is able to help all; and exclude none from our Prayers, but implore the Mercies of God for the Spiritual and Temporal Necessities of all Men in the Church Militant here on Earth.

After this Prayer is ended, we are invited, by the Priest, to the Sacrament of the Altar, the *Holy Communion* of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now lest we should approach this Holy Table in a State of Sin, and not in Grace, and so obtain a Curse, and not a Blessing, the Church orders two *Exhortations*; the one designed to encrease the Number, the other to rectify the Dispositions of the Communicants, that so the Assembly may be both Great and Good, and such as God may delight in.

In these *Exhortations* we are call'd upon,
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amongst other things, to be in perfect Charity with our Neighbours, by forgiving Injuries; making Satisfaction and Restitution to others, for any thing unjustly gotten or detained from them; and that is the last part of Charity before-mentioned.

And thus I have led you to the *Holy Communion*: And for the instructing of your Behaviour there, take these few Rules.

1. It hath been the Custom of well disposed Christians, to receive the Sacrament fasting.

2. When you hear the Minister invite you to come to the Lord's Table, propound to your self that Invitation by way of Question: Do I truly and earnestly repent me of my Sins? Am I in Love and Charity with my Neighbours? Do I intend to lead a Godly Life, to avoid all occasions of Sin, and abstain from all appearance of Evil, loving and delighting to do the will of God, and walk in his Love? So finding your self able to return the Answer of a Good Conscience before God, draw near and take the Holy Sacrament.

Here follows *Confession* and *Absolution*
Then say, O Lord, and Merciful Father,
as at the words of thy Angel, the Chains
fell from the Hands and Feet of St. Peter,

and he was immediately restored to Liberty: So grant, dear Lord, that by the Ministry of thy Church, the Chains of my Sins may be loos'd, and all my Offences pardoned, through the Merits of Jesus Christ.

When the Minister says, *This is a faithful Saying, and worthy of all to be receiv'd, that Jesus Christ came to save Sinners*: say to your self, *Of whom I am the greatest.*

Consider here Christ's Invitation, Mat. 11, 28.

Come unto me all you that labour in Temptation and Trouble; all you that are overladen with your burthensome Body and bad Nature; all you that are assaulted with vitious Inclinations and violent Passions; all you that are dismay'd at the memory of your past Offences, and at the feeling of your present Frailty, Come to me your Father, your Physician, your Food. Have you sinn'd? I will forgive you. Are you sick and wounded? I will comfort and cure you. Are you troubled and tempted? I will ease and deliver you. Are you weak, and ready to faint under your Burthen? I will nourish and strengthen you. Are you cold, dull, dark and desolate? I will inflame you, enlighten and revive you, and transform you into my self, by a perfect Union, by the Divine Grace and Spirit. Why come you not to me? Behold, I come to you,
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begging to be your Guest, and desiring to be lodg'd in your Breast. I come not only into your House, but into your Heart; not only to eat with you, but to be spiritually received by you. Turn away then, O Soul, from all Creatures; return to me your Creator, your Center, your Happiness & Satiety.

The Soul's Answer to Christ's Invitation.

I come to this Sacrament, O my Saviour, in obedience to thy sweet Invitation, and upon confidence in thy saying Merits and Mercy. I can't come to thee, but by thee: send down thy Grace and Spirit upon my Soul; strengthen my Faith, increase my Hope, inflame me with thy Divine Love and Charity, that so I may now be raised from Earth, to the Knowledge, and Love, and Meditation of things Heavenly and Divine; that I may Spiritually, as well as Sacramentally, receive, and be vitally united with thee; that so I may die to my own Will, and to all irregular Affections to Creature-vanity, and be totally abandoned to thy Divine Will, that thou living in me, & I in thee, I may by thee be gracious in the Eyes of thy Heavenly Father. Even so come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

When the Priest goes to Consecrate, say;
The Lord hear thee, the Lord remember
all thy Offerings, and accept thy Sacrifice;

fice; grant thee thy Heart's Desire, and fulfil all thy Mind: the Lord fulfil all thy Petitions, for thy Self, for Us; and for all his People.

When he pours out the Wine, say; O let thy Blood, thy Grace and Spirit flow upon my wounded and Sin-sick Soul, that I may be a sound Member of thy Mystical Body the Church.

When the Minister lays his Hand on the Bread, say; O Merciful Saviour, lay hold on my Soul, as the Angel did on Lot; save me from the Flames, and let me escape to the Mount of God, that I perish not

When the Minister breaks the Bread, say; Lord Jesus ! in suffering thy Body to be broken for my Sins, I see the vehement Strength and Fervor of thy Divine Love ! O make me all Love; melt me away in the Fire of thy Charity; swallow me up in thy Divinity ; wean my Soul from all terrene and temporal Affections, and wed it unto thy self, by an inviolable tie of Love and Fidelity, that I may never be separated from thy Love, in Time or in Eternity.

When the Priest pronounces these words, This is my Body, This is my Blood. &c. say, Amen. And, Lord, I believe thy real spiritual Presence, beneficial to the Souls of Men. O Sacred Feast, wherein Christ himself

self is received, and the Memory of his Passion renew'd; our Minds fill'd with Grace, and our future Glory secur'd by a dear and precious Pledg !

When you receive the Consecrated Bread, say; Lord, I am not worthy thou shouldst come under my Roof: Yet, I beseech thee, speak the Word, and my Soul shal be saved: Fill every corner of my Soul with thy Grace and Spirit; possess me, guide me, and govern me; thy Will be done in me, by me, and upon me, in Time and in Eternity. Lord, now dismiss thy Servant in Peace, for my Eyes have seen thy Salvation.

When you receive the Holy Cup, say; It is finished. Thankes be unto God for his unspeakable Gift ! As Wise as God is, he knows not what more to give us; as Rich as he is, hath no more to give; as Powerful as he is, he can give us no more. My God, and all things ! whom have I in Heaven but thee ? and there is none on Earth that I desire beside thee ! Thy Self, O sweet Saviour, is all I want ; and thy Love is all I wish for.

[*Now it falls out often, that when we have communicated, and our Souls have been fed at the Lord's Table ; a considerable space of Time remains, before the united Praises and Thanksgivings of the Congregation begin: This time, more or less, must not be spent in looking about, or sitting still, but in holy Aspirations and Heavenly Meditations ; such as follow, or the like..*]

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Who shall separate me from the Love of God in Christ Jesus ! Not fear of Death, because thou, O Lord, are the Life of my Soul : Not the Love of Creature-Vanity, because I despise it : Not Tribulation, because thou, O God, art with me, and thy Comforts shall refresh my Soul : Not Hunger, Nakedness, or Poverty; because thou art my Food, Covering, and Riches; Not Persecution and Violence, because these are pleasant to me, for Truth and Righteousness-sake, which thou commandest : Nor any other Creature can separate us, because all is Vanity and Nullity in respect of thee. Thou O God, who delightest to be with the Children of Men, behold this poor Habitation, Body, Soul and Spirit, all is thine; I conceal nothing, I reserve nothing; compose all, dispose of all, depose all unruly Passions, impose upon me what thou plearest, only repose sweetly in my Soul, and permit no foul, false or foolish Affection to interpose it self, or disturb this quiet Peace and Union between us for ever. *Amen*

Spirit of Christ sanctify me.

Love of Christ inflame me.

Kingdom of Christ come into me.

Grace of Christ replenish me.

Blood of Christ wash me.

Merits of Christ save me.

From the Enemy defend me.

In my Life and at my Death,
In Time and in Eternity. *Amen.*

An Intercession for others.

I Humbly represent unto thee, O God, the Sacrifice which our Lord Christ made of himself upon the Cross, and by a never-ceasing Intercession, now offer to thee in Heaven, in behalf of all that have communicated this Day; and in behalf of all that desire so to do, and are hindered. Give to me and them a Part and Portion of all the good Prayers made in Heaven and Earth, the Intercession of Christ, and the Supplication of his Servants; and unite us all, in the Bands of the Common Faith and Universal Charity.

Give to all Christian Kings, Princes and Governours, the Spirit of Justice and Mercy, Prudence and Diligence; the Favour of thee our God, and the Love of their People.

Give an Apostolick Spirit to all Ecclesiastical Persons; a Zeal for the Salvation of Souls; Wisdom to conduct their Charges, holy and exemplary Lives, that their Labours and their Lives may greatly Promote the Honour and the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

Bless all States and Conditions of Men and Women in the Christian Church; the Governours and the Governed, the Rich
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and the Poor, High & Low; grant them the several Graces necessary for their several Stations and Conditions; that they may live with so much Religion and Piety, Truth and Justice, Sobriety and Patience, continuance in Well-doing, that thy Will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Relieve all that are oppressed, defend and restore their Rights, and suppress all violent and warring Spirits, that unjustly disturb the Peace of Christendom: Comfort and support all Persons that are any ways afflicted or distressed in Mind, Body or Estate; shorten the Days of our Trouble, & put an End to the Days of our Sin; and let the spiritual Kingdom of our Lord Jesus be set up in every one of our Hearts.

Bless all my Relations, Friends and Benefactors, all that have said well of me, or done good to me: Grant them, O Lord, whatsoever they want, or wisely and holily desire: Keep them, by thy Grace and Spirit, in thy Fear and Favour, that they may not sin against thee, and fall into thy Displeasure, and be separated from thy Love and presence.

Have Mercy upon all my Enemies, who bear me ill Will, and would do me harm; bridle and restrain their Malice: and their Faults and mine, by such easy methods of Providence, vouchsafe to reform and amend,

mend, that we may be saved Souls together in Heaven.

Have Mercy upon all Strangers from the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Call home the Jews; and let the Fulness of the Gentiles come in, that all Flesh may see the Salvation of God.

Give Grace to all wicked Persons, that they may repent, and live well, and be saved. To all Godly People give encrease of Grace and Perseverance in the Ways of Holiness, Truth and Justice. To all Hereticks and Schismatics, give the Spirit of Humility and Truth; Charity and Obedience to all Rebellious and disobedient Spirits; give them a sense of their Duty, from whence they are fallen, that they may repent and do their first Works.

For all Mankind whom I have, and whom I have not, and whom I ought to remember, I humbly represent the Sacrifice of Jesus, his Merits and Obedience, his Life and Death, Resurrection and Ascension, his Love and powerful Intercession praying to thee, O God, for his Sake, to grant us all true Repentance, hatred of Sin, and a Love, Complacency and Delight in the Ways of Goodness, and persevering in Holiness, that we may be led by thy Spirit, and devoted to thy Will that so our Souls may be saved. *Amen.*

A Prayer for an happy Death.

O Dear Lord Jesus, I most humble beseech thee, by those bitter Pains and Pangs which thou suffered for me in thy bitter Passion; and particularly in the Hour wherein thy Divine Soul passed forth of thy Blessed Body, take pity upon my poor and sinful Soul in her last Agony, and in her passage to Eternity. 'Tis thou, O Sovereign Goodness who art the Original and daily Preserver of my Life; and 'tis from thee alone that I can expect the Grace of an happy Death. Thou didst not make this Death, which separates Soul and Body; 'twas Sin which brought it into the World: had not Man strayed from thy Precept, he had not been subject to the severe Punishment. But yet thy Divine Son, by enduring Death, hath changed its harsh Nature, and through his Means and Merits it may now be made a Sacrifice most pleasing to thy Majesty, and a glorious Passage from Time to Eternity. This is the Death I here most humbly desire of thy Divine Bounty, as the Crown of all thy Mercies: for thou, O Lord, lookest not so much upon the Beginnings of thy Children, as upon their final End and Consummation; and the Eternity of their Glory or Misery, depends upon the last Moment of their Life. Then it is, that

that the Tempter tries all ways to prevail over the weakness of our Spirit, either to swell it up into a dangerous Presumption, or deject it into a more dangerous Dispair. Then it is, that all the sinful Passages of our Life come swarming into our Memories, to strike us into a sad Resentment of what 'tis too late to remedy. Then it is, that the poor Soul, overwhelmed with a flood of Sorrow, cannot, without thy strengthning Grace, exercise the Faculties of her Reason and Religion. Give me therefore, O Gracious God, in this Passage, so full of Peril, and of so great Importance, all those Christian Dispositions which thy wonted Clemency gives to thy elected and beloved Children; that I may well perform this last Duty of Life. Let me consider Death as the just Punishment of Sin; and so most willingly receive it, to obey the Law, which comprehends all *Adam's* Race, by whom it was introduced into the World. Let me look upon my Body as a Parcel of Old *Adam*, deserving to return into Dust, and only fit for Corruption. Let me render unto thy Majesty most hearty Thanks for vouchsafing, by Death, to deliver my Soul from the Law of these Corporal Members, which kept it so long enslaved under the Law of Sin. Let me freely offer
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up to thee my Life in Sacrifice; and let thy Love be the Fire, not only to purify, but also to enable this my Oblation, which is of it self so contemptible. O Sovereign Lord of Life and Death; I resignedly leave to the conduct of thy Providence, all that concerns my poor Soul's departure out of the Body, as to the Time, the place, the Assistance, the Consolations, the Desertions, and all other Circumstances. I only beg that thy Holy Grace may not abandon me then, when all Humane Helps must of necessity become useless unto me. In the mean time, let Death, O God, be my continual Looking-glass, to keep me from wilfully offending thy Divine Majesty; to check my immoderate Affection to this Life; which is so uncertain in its Duration, and so certain in its Misery: And also to mind me; that each moment of Time I live may be my last, wherein I must appear before thy dreadful Tribunal, to render an Account of my Actions, and to receive a Sentence, irrevocable for all Eternity. Give me, O Lord, in this Article of my Death, perfect Integrity of my Senses, true Contrition for my Sins, a lively Faith, a firm Hope, and a perfect Charity; that I may then say unto thee, with a pure and clean Heart, Into thy Hands, O my Saviour Jesu, I Commend my Spirit. *Amen.* . FINIS.